

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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State Office Building, 217 West First Street MADISON 1271

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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## Pure Food Laws Enforced

### DRIED FRUIT

A successful prosecution followed complaint of a lot of dried fruit sold in San Diego. Properly labeled dried fruit had the label "Prepared with Sulfur Dioxide" removed before being sold to a health food store. A San Diego justice court fined the defendant \$50, of which \$40 was suspended.

Two inspectors were assigned to the project on dried figs, working in cooperation with the Dried Fruit Association of California and the Fig Institute. The entire time was spent in general policing of the Fresno and adjacent districts, primarily with the purpose of preventing low test figs from being shipped to the Los Angeles and San Francisco markets and of apprehending any shipments of such material that might be made. Considerable time was also spent in supervising attempts to sort out figs which had been placed in quarantine. An attempt has been made to sort these figs with the idea of salvaging enough that are usable, but to date none of these figs have been released for use. However, of the figs which have been discarded in this sorting operation approximately 12,000 lbs. will be diverted into hog feed channels. Practically the entire crop of figs is now in the hands of the various packers, with the exception of a few lots which are still being held either on growers' premises, or in packer-controlled drying yards, preparatory to being sorted. These particular lots are

being carefully watched to make sure what disposition is made of cull figs after sorting.

This project for the past few weeks has included regular inspection of all packers, growers, and independent handlers. In addition, the highways have been watched periodically and several truckloads of figs have been stopped. In all cases these loads have turned out to be low-test or cull figs from various packers and have been on their way to hog and cattle ranches. Their destination has been checked and confirmed. One dealer in Tulare has recently made arrangements with the Fig Pooling Committee to buy all the cull figs testing below 25% (about 800 tons) now in the hands of the packers, and is selling the same to stock raisers. This dealer is getting signed statements from each customer that this material is to be used for stock feeding purposes only. Each purchaser has been carefully investigated, as well as the majority of the customers, and each has been found to have a legitimate outlet for these figs as hog feed. He is attempting to make arrangements with the committee in charge of the government pool (25% to 65% passable figs) and buy this material as well. This will amount to approximately 2000 additional tons. If this arrangement is successful, it will eliminate practically all of the low test figs in the hands of the packers.

All of the fig packers are still practicing the usual procedure in making fig paste by slicing the figs,



running them over a belt where they are sorted by 10 or 12 women, then washing them in steam, after which a test is taken. If the figs had to pass test BEFORE they are sliced and washed, a considerable part of this type of raw material could not be used, due to dirt and infestation. The contention is that the infestation and excreta is washed out. But very often it is merely camouflaged so that it is not discernable. The washing process does not affect the smuts and molds.

#### LIQUID EGG PRODUCTS

Two inspectors have been assigned to check all lots of liquid egg and frozen domestic egg products in the southern California area. Large quantities of these products are in various commercial storage warehouses and home storage plants. Proper equipment has been purchased for use in the inspection of frozen eggs. Several major breaking plants have been inspected, and in these plants suitable facilities may be found for the proper cracking of eggs. The real offenders dealing in this class of food are small operators, breaking eggs in basements, garages, and in rooms in which proper facilities are not available. Added to this, the eggs used are rejected material from commercial candlers, and in some instances, hatcheries which sell the unfertile eggs for food purposes.

An egg dealer, who paid a \$50 fine in September, had a lot of 40 cases of eggs labeled, and ordered destroyed by Superior Judge Schmidt of Los Angeles County. The publicity from this case has caused many inquiries from large and small firms dealing in this class of material.

The inspection of, and obtaining of evidence in the liquid egg traffic is difficult, due to many reasons. There is no fixed place of business for many dealers in this type of food. They operate when they have an order, obtaining the shell eggs at night, and shipments can not be traced. The buyers of this material (bakeries, etc.) pay 10 cents under the market for this type of material and use it soon after it is delivered. The true nature of the liquid egg is concealed, and the evidence is destroyed when the egg product is included in pies and cakes.

#### IMPORTED EGGS

A drive was made in October to check all places such as bakeries, macaroni factories, candy factories, doughnut manufacturers, etc., to ascertain the use of imported egg products such as dried yolk and albumen.

At a candy factory, an inspector assigned to this detail, noticed a barrel of dried egg albumen, which container seemed of different wood than that of do-

mestic egg products, and upon closer inspection, found his initials inscribed on the end of the barrel. He had marked his initials on a lot of barrels last June on a shipment of egg products from China on its way to a storage warehouse to identify them in case he should see them in just such an occasion as this. Upon further investigation, a lot of 10 barrels of dried egg yolk and 4 barrels of dried egg albumen imported from China and with the words "product of China" scraped off, was found at a warehouse in San Francisco.

A complaint was filed against an individual (who assumed responsibility for the removal of the origin of eggs) under Article 4 of the Agricultural Code, and in his absence a John Doe warrant was issued and charged to John Devier upon refusal of the booking clerk at the City Prison to book a John Doe.

The case was brought before Judge Frank M. Dunn of Department 12 of the Municipal Court of San Francisco, and John Devier fined \$250 cash and 11 barrels of dried egg yolk and 4 barrels of dried egg albumen valued at about \$1,600 was ordered confiscated by the State Board of Health.

#### COLD STORAGE

Cold storage plants were inspected in towns and cities where inspectors were assigned, sanitary conditions noted, and foods examined. Several ice manufacturing plants were visited and found to be either doing a cold storage business or renting storage boxes to farmers in the vicinity without a license to operate a cold storage plant.

One such plant obtained a license and two others have filed applications for license.

Protests have been filed by some of the larger wholesale produce houses, claiming exception from paying storage fees on the ground that wholesale houses doing their own storing do not have to pay a license fee, but the law exempts only exclusively retail establishments not storing foods for others.

#### BAKERIES

Several bakeries have been inspected and investigation made of the composition of "rice potato", and "soy bean" breads, and several health food stores were warned re the sale of so-called "health breads" as being no healthier than ordinary breads, and to withdraw advertising same as such.

A bakery that was repeatedly warned to label their bread correctly, was haled into court and ordered by the judge to attach labels and proper wrappers for the bread, upon threat of a stiff fine or jail sentence.

An official sample of bread was taken claiming laxative properties.



## THE RELATION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(Continued from last issue)

In that syphilis is a disease just as specific in nature as is typhoid fever or malaria; in that it is just as curable if treated early, properly and persistently, and in that it is an economic as well as a health problem of tremendous magnitude, its prevalence is a very definite challenge to the public health and medical professions of the nation. If, through the expenditure of every dollar made available under the Social Security Act, the present prevalence of syphilis could be reduced by one half and maintained at that level, from an economic standpoint to the people of the nation would derive a dividend equal in value to many times the original investment made. Not until we can make the ravages of syphilis known to the public, and a subject which will be just as readily discussed by the lay public as would be a pandemic of smallpox, will we ever be able to control it. Let us hope that funds made available by the Social Security Act may result in at least a start being made to this end in all states.

### *The Study of Health Legislation and Health Department Organization.*

In at least one state in the western area plans have been completed for a study of state health laws, also for a survey of the state health department and of one of the leading county and one of the leading city health departments. This study will be made with the view of modernizing public health procedure. It has been made possible through the allotment of Social Security funds to match local funds on a fifty per cent basis to meet the expense incident to the study, which will be conducted during the next three months. Where state and local health departments are operating under laws which are obsolete or are in conflict with each other, or where additional health legislation is needed, it is believed that available social security funds, can be used to no better advantage than for providing expert advice along these lines. Where total state allotments have not been budgeted for other purposes, or if budgeted but not used they may, by any state, be rebudgeted to provide studies leading to the modernization of public health laws and health administrative procedure.

Time does not permit a more lengthy discussion in this paper of the relation of the Social Security Act to the health department, state or local. It has been the policy of the Public Health Service, however, to interpret the wording of the law in the most liberal manner possible in order that the public health

needs of the several states may be met. The task of analyzing budgets for approval and clearing the quarterly payments to the states has been no small one. While some delays have been inevitable, every effort has been made by our regional offices in San Francisco to impress upon state health officials, the necessity for the early preparation and prompt submission of the state plans which set forth in detail the purposes for which social security funds will be expended, the careful preparation of budgets and the prompt submission of quarterly progress reports—also every effort has been made by our Washington office to expedite the approval of budgets and clearance of quarterly payments to the states. From most of the states we have had the best of cooperation from state officials in their effort to comply, not only with the provisions of the Social Security Act itself, but also with the regulations adopted by the state health officers as provided for in the act under which Title VI of the act is being administered. In that appropriation made available under Titles V and VI is, in reality, the first definite acknowledgment on the part of the federal government of its responsibility to the people of the country as a whole in the promotion of the public health, it certainly behooves everyone concerned to work together in order that the greatest possible benefits may be obtained.

### EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

An examination for certificate in public health nursing will be held by the State Department of Public Health at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 19, 1936, at Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Application forms may be obtained from the offices of the State Department of Public Health at Sacramento, San Francisco, or Los Angeles. Completed applications should be sent to State Department of Public Health, 305 State Building, San Francisco.

Applications for admission to the examinations must be in the office of the State Department of Public Health not later than December 1, 1936.

Till taught by pain

Men really know not what good water's worth.

If you had been in Turkey or in Spain,

Or with a famished boat's crew had your berth,

Or in the desert heard the camel's bell,

You'd wish yourself where truth is—in a well.

—Byron.

A child will learn three times as fast when he is in tune, as he will when he is dragged to his task.—

Locke

MS 88-11 28295



## MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending  
November 7, 1936

## Chickenpox

213 cases: Alameda County 6, Berkeley 2, Hayward 1, Oakland 16, San Leandro 1, Alpine County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 14, Fresno 1, Humboldt County 6, Bakersfield 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 20, Azusa 2, Beverly Hills 1, El Monte 6, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 18, Pasadena 1, San Rafael 6, Mendocino County 3, Carmel 3, Monterey 3, Grass Valley 3, Orange County 3, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 7, Redlands 2, Upland 1, San Diego County 1, Chula Vista 1, Escondido 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 26, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Luis Obispo 2, Burlingame 4, Daly City 7, San Jose 1, Watsonville 1, Shasta County 2, Stanislaus County 6, Oakdale 6, Ventura County 2, Santa Paula 5, Winters 1.

## Diphtheria

56 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 3, Fresno County 1, Imperial County 1, Kern County 2, Kings County 1, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 15, Santa Monica 1, Monterey Park 1, Orange County 1, Placer County 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 7, San Francisco 4, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 1, Sonoma County 2, Healdsburg 1, Yuba City 1, Tulare County 1.

## German Measles

5 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Los Angeles 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange 1.

## Influenza

27 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 13, El Monte 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 7, Pomona 1, Red Bluff 1.

## Malaria

3 cases: Modoc County 1, Riverside County 1, California 1.\*

## Measles

30 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Oroville 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 3, Grass Valley 5, Orange County 1, Sacramento 4, San Diego County 7, San Francisco 2, South San Francisco 2.

## Mumps

304 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 3, Berkeley 8, Oakland 4, Oroville 16, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 11, Willows 13, Kern County 3, Kings County 4, Los Angeles County 23, Alhambra 2, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 3, Compton 1, Culver City 1, El Segundo 3, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 2, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 23, Pasadena 10, Santa Monica 5, South Pasadena 7, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 2, Madera County 1, Mendocino County 2, Modoc County 1, Mono County 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 6, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 1, Brea 16, Orange 5, Santa Ana 2, Placentia 1, Riverside County 7, Riverside 3, Sacramento 7, Redlands 3, San Diego County 3, Coronado 9, National City 16, San Diego 15, San Francisco 11, San Joaquin County 1, Burlingame 5, Santa Barbara 4, San Jose 5, Healdsburg 2, Oakdale 7, Ventura County 5, Fillmore 2, Santa Paula 2, Davis 1.

## Pneumonia (Lobar)

61 cases: Livermore 1, Los Angeles County 4, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 21, Pasadena 1, Madera County 1, Orange County 1, Brea 1, Orange 1, Riverside County 2, Sacramento County 5, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin County 4, Stockton 5, Daly City 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 1, San Jose 2, Siskiyou County 1, Fort Jones 1, Tulare County 1.

## Scarlet Fever

214 cases: Berkeley 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 5, Butte County 1, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 1, Walnut Creek 4, Fresno County 3, Imperial County 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 3, Lassen County 1, Los Angeles County 7, Glendale 1, Glendora 1, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 23, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, San Marino 1, Torrance 1, Madera 2, Mill Valley 3, Merced 3, Modoc County 4, Monterey 1, Brea 2, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 2, Placer County 4, Auburn 8, Lincoln 1, Plumas County 4, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 35, San Bernardino 1, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 17, Manteca 1, Stockton 2, Tracy 1, San Mateo County 1, Redwood City 1, Lompoc 4, Santa Maria 1, San Jose 16, Siskiyou County 1, Montague 1, Solano County 1, Rio Vista 1, Vallejo 6, Sonoma County 4, Stanislaus County 5, Yuba City 2, Tulare County 1, Tuolumne County 1, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 1, Woodland 1.

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

## Smallpox

3 cases: Siskiyou County 2, California 1.\*

## Typhoid Fever

16 cases: Lake County 2, Ross 2, Mendocino County 6, Sacramento County 1, San Diego 1, San Jose 1, Stanislaus County 3.

## Whooping Cough

181 cases: Alameda 4, Berkeley 6, Oakland 2, Placerville 1, Fresno County 5, Los Angeles County 1, Glendale 4, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 52, Montebello 3, San Gabriel 2, Santa Monica 4, Sierra Madre 1, Madera County 2, Ross 2, Fort Bragg 1, Merced County 3, Orange County 2, Anaheim 2, Placer County 1, Riverside County 4, Corona 5, Elsinore 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 3, Escondido 5, Oceanside 1, San Diego 13, San Francisco 22, San Joaquin County 7, Stockton 2, San Mateo County 2, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Maria 1, San Jose 2, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 3.

## Meningitis (Epidemic)

3 cases: Kern County 1, Kings County 1, San Mateo 1.

## Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Riverside County, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1.

## Dysentery (Bacillary)

7 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 5.

## Pellagra

2 cases: Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1.

## Pollomyelitis

11 cases: Berkeley 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 2, Culver City 1, Los Angeles 4, Orange County 1, Riverside County 1.

## Paratyphoid Fever

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1.

## Trichinosis

One case: Santa Clara County.

## Food Poisoning.

8 cases: Long Beach 2, San Mateo County 6.

## Undulant Fever

4 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Burlingame 1.

## Actinomycosis

One case: Laguna Beach.

## Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

2 cases: Lake County 1, Lompoc 1.

## Rabies (Animal)

26 cases: Richmond 1, Lemoore 2, Los Angeles County 5, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 6, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Hawthorne 1, San Bernardino 3, Stockton 1.

Even in the populous districts, the practice of medicine is a lonely road which winds uphill all the way, and a man may easily go astray and never reach the delectable mountains unless he early finds those shepherd guides of whom Bunyan tells, Knowledge, Experience, Watchful and Sincere.—Osler.

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